

Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals Summary of 11th Session (Day 4)

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On, 8 May 2014, the OWG continued its 11th session with discussion on the focus areas:

- *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- *Climate change*
- *Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas*
- *Ecosystems and biodiversity*

Migration

- There were few references to migration during today’s discussions. However, **Slovenia** (for Montenegro) noted that they would support a target dealing with climate change displacement.

Sustainable consumption and production

- There was overwhelming support for including sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the P2015 agenda. In fact, a number of delegations noted that SCP is perhaps the most transformative aspect of the entire agenda and a vital component of achieving its primary goals – eliminating poverty and addressing inequality – in a sustainable way.
- However, there were divergent views on how SCP should be included, in particular whether it should feature as a stand-alone goal or by being mainstreamed across the agenda.
- Many developing countries emphasized that targets should commit developed countries to take a lead on promoting SCP by addressing unsustainable consumption and production patterns in their own societies. In that respect, many delegations reemphasized the need for differentiation and also noted the importance of existing commitments under the 10 Year Framework Programmes on SCP.
- An additional issue that received widespread support in the SCP context was the need to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, which was commented on by developed and developing countries alike.

Climate change

- Once again, there was widespread agreement that climate change should be addressed in the new agenda. Like SCP however, views differed on whether it should be included as a stand-alone goal or as a mainstreamed issue.

SIDS countries were understandably the most vocal supporters of a stand-alone goal, though they received support from some other countries, such as Mexico and Peru.

- As in previous OWG sessions, there was a great deal of discussion on how to link the OWG process to that in the ongoing UNFCCC negotiations, which is a key factor guiding national positions on whether climate should be stand-alone or mainstreamed. Some delegations are concerned that the OWG should not undermine the UNFCCC discussions and for that reason should not include a stand-alone goal. Others are of the view that the OWG process could inspire more ambitious action in the UNFCCC, or that the P2015 framework can address climate change without significantly undermining or prejudging UNFCCC discussions.
- As has been the case throughout this session of the OWG, developing countries have highlighted various examples of means of implementation that could support each goal. In the context of climate change, common examples included promoting greater leadership and commitments from developed countries, including technological transfer and increased resources for climate mitigation and adaptation, especially for LDCs.
- Desertification, land degradation and drought were often highlighted as issues that should also be addressed in the climate change context. Many delegations also highlighted disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas and ecosystems and biodiversity

- Countries diverged on whether the two focus areas should be merged, streamlined across the framework or both remain as standalone goals, with more pronounced support for a standalone goal on oceans.
- Delegations also reiterated that strong targets and streamlining were main objectives while clustering secondary – leaving it to the co-chairs to organize.

Ecosystems and biodiversity; Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas

- The AICHI-framework on biodiversity was highlighted, with a suggestion on completely integrating it into the agenda instead of dual targets, instead focusing on MOI (Maldives)
- The importance of desertification was stressed by many nations (e.g. G77 and China, African Group, Egypt and Saudi-Arabia) with calls for targets dealing with this issue.
- Statements often dwelled on refining and clarifying targets; dwelling on timelines and level of ambition.
- Ensuring consistency with other frameworks was a main theme under this focus area, ranging from WTO negotiations to UNCLOS and international law.
- Eliminating harmful fishery subsidies was key for many delegations amidst debate on whether negotiations in other fora, such as the WTO, precluded substantially dealing with this issue.